

The American Waterways Operators**Pacific Regional Office**

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May 14, 1997

Gerald P. McMahon
Vice President-Pacific Region

The Honorable Gary Locke
Governor
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: E2SHB 1866--Environmental Excellence Program

Dear Governor Locke:

The Maritime Environmental Coalition (MEC) urges you to approve the bill to create a state environmental excellence program (E2SHB 1866). The Maritime Environmental Coalition, composed of the Washington members of the American Waterways Operators (AWO), is the trade association for the inland and coastal tugboat and barge industry, and the state's shipyards.

E2SHB 1866 authorizes a method to begin to work toward performance-based environmental regulation, rather than merely to engage in "one-size-fits-all" regulation of every industry and facility.

MEC members are proud of their records for working to protect the state's environment. Our members have been leaders in developing strategies for environmental compliance.

Our support for E2SHB 1866 is not predicated on real or perceived problems in our dealings with the Department of Ecology or the Office of Marine Safety. To the contrary, our members enjoy good working relationships and reputations with these agencies. MEC simply believes that allowing businesses to develop specific strategies to meet environmental goals will increase efficiency and improve results. For this reason, we urge you to sign 1866.

Very truly yours,

Gerald McMahon
Vice President

cc: Carol Jolly, Office of Executive Policy